DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F. Schmelzer DATE 7/2/85
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FOIA or EO EXEMPTIONS

91
10

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD THE PROPOSED SALE OF AIRCRAFT BE REJECTED

A rejection of the proposal to sell aircraft would have an untimely and negative impact on the Egyptian government and, by extension, restrict the flexibility with which President Sadat can pursue peace negotiations. This conclusion is based on the following considerations.

-- President Sadat has persisted in his dedication to a negotiated peace settlement in the face of serious opposition from some radical Arab governments which argue that he has fractured Arab unity without producing any tangible results.

-- Important to his ability to do so is the close relationships he has established with the United States government.

-- A rejection of the proposed sale of F-5's to Egypt, even if combined with similar rejection of proposals for aircraft sales to Israel and Saudi Arabia, would undermine President Sadat's ability credibly to point to strong support from the United States government.

-- In his frequent discussions with members of the Congress, both during his visit to Washington in February

of this year and on the occasion of U.S. Congressional visits to Egypt, President Sadat has sought to establish a rapport and mutual confidence with the Congress sufficent to assure him that U.S. political support encompasses both the executive and legislative branches of government. This assumption of broad support has been an important factor in his attitudes towards the peace process.

-- In addition to criticism from other Arabs, Sadat is contending with some skepticism within Egypt in the form of a growing disillusionment concerning the possibility of success of his peace initiatives. Any perceived diminution of USG support further would encourage this skepticism and impact adversely on our own efforts aimed at achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

-- In sum, rejection of the proposed sale will:

-- weaken President Sadat's ability to counter critics of his policies,

-- cast doubt on our support for his peace initiatives,

-- risk circumscribing his flexibility in dealing with important domestic as well as critical international issues,

-- impact adversely on our own peace efforts.